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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/959,748	10/28/1997	PAUL GENE CLEMMER	PD-30-3986DI	5073

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EXAMINER

PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 08/959,748	Applicant(s) Clemmer et al
Examiner Alton Pryor	Art Unit 1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 21, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-9, 19, and 20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 20 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 5 and 19 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

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Prosecution of Application has been reopened to address issues regarding 37 C FR 1.608(b).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-4,6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonniface et al. (US 5,672,786). Bonniface teaches the process of the instant invention. Bonniface teaches a process for the production of difluoromethane comprising (a) contacting dichloromethane with hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst (metal of the oxide, metal fluoride or oxyfluoride) to produce a product stream comprising difluoromethane, monochloromonofluoromethane and unreacted starting materials (b) separating difluoromethane from the product stream from step (a) and c) recovering difluoromethane and recycling HCFC 31 to step (a) wherein sufficient hydrogen fluoride is employed in the process such that during step (b) the molar ratio of hydrogen fluoride to monochloromonofluoromethane is at least about 100:1. See claims 1-4,6-9.

In addition, Applicant must submit under 37 C FR 1.608b (1) evidence, e.g. patents and one or more affidavits or declarations which demonstrate that Applicant is entitled to a judgement

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relative to the Patentee and (2) an explanation stating the basis upon which the Applicant is entitled to the judgement.

Claim Objection/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5,19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 is allowable. The prior art does not teach a process for the production of CH₂F₂ (non-vapor production) comprising the molar ratio of HF to monochloromonofluoromethane from about 25:1 to about 75:1. In addition, the instant invention differs from US Patent 5,672,786 in that the instant invention discloses said process whereby distillation separates a top stream comprising CH₂F₂ and HF and a bottom stream comprising HF, chlorofluoromethane, and unreacted CH₂Cl₂. In US Patent 5,672,786, distillation results in top stream comprising HF, chlorofluoromethane, and unreacted CH₂Cl₂ and bottom stream comprising CH₂F₂ and HF.

Telephonic Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton Pryor whose telephone number is (703) 308-4691. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees, can be reached on (703) 308-4628. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.



Alton Pryor

Primary Examiner, AU 1616

11/27/02